

Amendment to Specification:

Please replace the paragraph bridging page 5, line 15 through page 6, line 5 of the specification with the following replacement paragraph, which reflects the changes made herein above:

-- Thermochemical compositions susceptible to ingredient loss during storage include, for example, aqueous sodium acetate formulations, aqueous sodium thiosulfate formulations, and aqueous magnesium sulfate formulations. Any activatable thermochemical formulation comprising a supersaturated aqueous mixture containing a chemical salt can benefit from advantages afforded by the thermal device of the invention. Sodium acetate formulations have, however, been found to be particularly susceptible to changes in concentration due to water loss, i.e., the slope of temperature versus concentration curve is relatively steep. Thermochemical compositions such as aqueous sodium acetate can be activated at time of use by physical activator elements, also referred to as "triggers" or "clickers" in the art. Such activator elements can be in the form of flexible perforated metallic discs or crystal-coated boards or papers. Such thermochemical activator compositions and physical activators are described in Applicant's own U.S. patent application Serial No. 10/821,694 filed April 9, 2004, now pending [(not yet assigned)], filed concurrently herewith, the full text of which is incorporated herein by reference. --